

CIA recruiting on the rise due to protests

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Protests against CIA recruitment on campus have actually increased student interest in working for the agency, according to officials on campus and at agency headquarters.

Arthur Hilson, former director of Placement Services and now director of Public Safety at the University of Massachusetts, said last week that between eight and 10 students a year signed up to interview with CIA recruiters until protests began in 1984.

"What that did was increase the yield for the CIA," he said. Now, approximately 25 students sign up for the agency's yearly visit. Resumes also are sent through Placement Services to the agency.

The CIA then directly contacts the students it wants to interview, Hilson said.

Sharon Foster, a spokeswoman from CIA headquarters in Langley, Va., said "the protesters have not hurt our college recruiting."

Foster would not give numbers or percentages of students recruited from college campuses, but said the CIA recruits at 200 campuses a year.

"People try to think we are different, but we're not, except for the fact that we are looking for the best and brightest," she said.

Foster said she was sure the agency would return to the University of Massachusetts, where recent arrests stemming from protests have brought national attention to the agency and the protesters.

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"The agency has gone to the University of Colorado and there are always demonstrations there," she said.

Hilson said about the protesters, "I think it's important for students to be able to voice their opinions," and that he had encouraged protesters to provide Placement Services with information."

He said that, after the 1984 protests, anti-CIA literature was included in the Resource Room, along with literature pro-

"I would think by now that it has been discarded," he said. No one spoke to him before the protests last fall, as they had in

1984 when the demonstration was "well-organized," he said.

Veteran activist Abbie Hoffman, whose trial for trespassing on the UMass campus is bringing national attention to the issue,

said the premise of CIA recruiting on campus is unfair.

"A recruit goes to see a recruiter and the recruiter can't ask the recruiter if he's go-

ing to have to mine Nicaraguan harbors or bump off an African nationalist," Hoffman said at a rally at Hampshire College yesterday.

Foster said about the trial, "They have a right to say what they're saying, just like the agency has a right to hire and find the best people. There are two sides to the story and we see both of them."